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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,991	10/03/2003	Raymond F. Howard		9068

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EXAMINER

ADAMS, GREGORY W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/677,991	HOWARD, RAYMOND F.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gregory W. Adams	3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Referring to line 20-21, the negative limitation "without positioning fabric atop a solid upward-opening rear door" lacks basis in the original disclosure. Any claim containing a negative limitation which does not have basis in the original disclosure should be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. See MPEP § 2173.05(i).

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Referring to line 13, it is unclear how "means for causing said vacation trailer to kneel" relates to suspension means. Moreover, claim 1 recites the limitation "said bumper-bearing end" in line 13,14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parmer (US 6,722,726) in view of Ziese (US 4,103,960) and Heider et al. (US 4,733,876) and further in view of Dalpizzol et al. (US 2004/0000800).

With respect to claim 1, referring to FIGS. 1-6 Parmer '726 discloses a trailer 100, chassis 120, wheels, suspension means 120, body 110,113,126,112,134,135,136, closure means 114,124, means for unloading as per FIG. 3, means for roofing over 108. Parmer does not disclose a detachable bumper. Referring to FIGS. 1-8 Ziese '960 discloses a detachable bumper 16 for attachment to a travel trailer and for storage of a self-contained or internal electrical power generator. Col. 1, Ins. 45-54. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a detachable bumper to the trailer of Parmer, as per the teachings of Ziese, such that a travel trailer may have a detachable bumper for storing a self-contained or internal electrical power generator.

Parmer '726 and 'Ziese '960 do not include means for raising and lowering a back end. Referring to FIGS. 1-8, Heider et al. '876 disclose a means for raising and lowering 32 attached to the chassis 16 and suspension means 24 to adjust the height of the trailer 10. Col. 1, Ins. 13-15. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a means for raising

and lowering the trailer of Parmer and Ziese, as per the teachings of Heider et al., such that a travel trailer height may be adjusted.

With respect to claim 2, Parmer '726 and 'Ziese '960 do not include means for raising and lowering a back end. Referring to FIGS. 1-8, Heider et al. '876 disclose a means for raising and lowering 32 comprising of compressed air, col. 3, Ins. 15-17, 24 to adjust the height of the trailer 10. Col. 1, Ins. 13-15. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a compressed air means for raising and lowering the trailer of Parmer and Ziese, as per the teachings of Heider et al., such that a travel trailer height may be adjusted.

With respect to claim 3, referring to FIGS. 3 Parmer discloses a means for unloading a trailer 100.

With respect to claim 4, Parmer does not disclose a bumper that detaches. Parmer does not disclose a detachable bumper. Referring to FIGS. 1-8 Ziese '960 discloses a detachable bumper 16 for attachment to a travel trailer and for storage of a self-contained or internal electrical power generator. Col. 1, Ins. 45-54. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a detachable bumper to the trailer of Parmer, as per the teachings of Ziese, such that a travel trailer may have a detachable bumper for storing a self-contained or internal electrical power generator.

With respect to claim 5, Parmer, Ziese, and Heider et al. do not disclose a means for roofing-over and a window. Referring to Dalpizzol et al. '800 discloses a means for roofing-over comprising a door 4 which swings open having a window as defined in FIG.

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8. Dalpizzol et al. '800 teach that a door 4 and window provide rear access to the cargo area and provides cover and/or shelter for objects under the door 4. Para. 0019, Ins. 5-12.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 4,138,152 to Prue shows a detachable bumper for storage.

US 3,614,136 to Dent shows a storage bumper.

US 2002/0110442 to Hurlburt shows a trailer with means to kneel.

US 6,755,451 to Jones shows a trailer with a storage bumper.

US 247,027 to Eagle et al. shows a trailer with a rear door, which provides access and shelter.

US 4,355,834 to Alford shows a trailer with a rear door, which provides access and shelter.

US 6,149,370 to DiBartolomeo shows carts with casters for unloading a trailer.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory W. Adams whose telephone number is (703) 305-0555. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on (703) 308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GWA



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